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The American Institute of Sacred Literature.

ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR THE YEAR 1904-5.

The opportunities offered by the INSTITUTE this year will appeal to ministers, Sunday-school superintendents and teachers, and others having in charge the religious education of either children or adults.

There is a constantly increasing desire on the part of the general public to know what scholarship says about the Bible, and at the same time a feeling of hesitation lest some of the fundamental conceptions necessary to one who would keep the Bible as his guide in the religious life be destroyed by the investigations of scholarship. The fact that these fundamental conceptions are infinitely strengthened and verified by scholarship is one that should be proclaimed from every pulpit and by every teacher. But this can be confidently done only when ministers and teachers become so familiar with the results of investigation that they experience for themselves the energy and fortification of convictions which come from the re-enforcement of the highest conceptions of Christian living through the study of the Bible by modern methods.

The INSTITUTE offers to its constituents this year forty-six courses of study, varying in degree of difficulty and expense from the simple elementary outline courses to the most advanced correspondence courses.

In its outline study courses, which have already been followed by sixty thousand persons, an important change is made this year. These courses have formerly been conducted by means of study bulletins mailed monthly to the students. They are now issued only in bound form, each course in a separate volume. The Principal's monthly letters have been retained in the volume, and the study material is presented exactly as before, as are also the review questions. Duplicate question sheets, to be returned for credit and certificate, will be provided as before when desired. It is expected that the improved form, permitting as it does the survey of the whole work from the beginning, will add greatly to the convenience and popularity of the courses.

The fee for membership and material is increased only by a charge of four cents for postage on the volume. The subjects in the outline series are: "The Life of the Christ," a study of the material contained in the four gospels; "The Foreshadowings of the Christ," a study of Old Testament history and prophecy with special reference to the development of the

Messianic ideal; "The Founding of the Christian Church," a study of the Acts and the epistles in their historic relation; "The Work of the Old Testament Sages," a simple study of the ethics and the philosophy of the sages as presented in the work of the prophets, and in the books of Job, the Song of Songs, Proverbs, and Ecclesiastes; "The Work of the Old Testament Priests," a study of the development of ideas concerning worship throughout the Old Testament; "The Social and Ethical Teachings of Jesus," a study of the teaching of Jesus concerning such questions as wealth, the state, the family, sin, faith, repentance, God, mankind, etc.

The order in which the subjects are named is a good order in which to study the courses, if there is no preference on the part of the leader of the class. Leaders of clubs are provided with a pamphlet giving suggestions for conducting the club, and programs for a fortnightly meeting. The material is, however, equally adapted to individual study in the home where no club exists.

The most important new departure of the INSTITUTE is in the addition of the Sunday-school teacher-training courses, recently noted in the BIBLICAL WORLD. The subjects offered are: (1) "An Introduction to the Bible for Teachers of Children," (2) "An Introduction to the Bible for Teachers of Young People and Adults," (3) "The Adaptation of the Fundamental Principles of Psychology and Pedagogy to Sunday-School Teaching," (4) "A Rapid Survey of the Life of Christ," (5) "A Rapid Survey of the Life of Paul," (6) "A Rapid Survey of Old Testament History," (7) "A Preview of the International Lessons for 1904-5," (8) "Kindergarten Principles and their Adaptation to Primary Work," (9) "The Organization and Administration of the Sunday School," and (10) "A Preview of The Bible Study Union Lessons for 1904-5."

Students are at work in the first two and the eighth of these subjects, with great pleasure and satisfaction. These pupils vary in degree of attainment and experience, from the graduate of a Bible Training School, to the young woman with no experience as yet who is simply aiming to teach in the Sunday school "when she is equipped for it." It is without doubt true that the courses, involving as they do rapid reading of large portions of biblical material, reference to such books as are available, a weekly written recitation, and a report upon some original work, demand more of the student teacher than any training courses in the field. But it is equally true that they are proportionately more valuable from an educational point of view. No school can better spend its money than by paying the small tuition fee—five dollars—for one teacher each year, and adding a few good reference books to its library for the use of this teacher and others.

After October 1 students will be enrolled in all the courses except No. 9 above, which will be postponed a few months. If the process of training teachers one by one seems too slow and a larger expenditure of funds is not desirable in any school, the teacher receiving the training may transfer it to a group of teachers, so far as her ability and time permit. If the study must be started in any given school with but one teacher, the heaven will surely work through the whole teaching body sooner or later.

A change in the plan of the Professional Reading Courses is to be made at once. Formerly the membership in the Reading Guild was limited by the condition of a subscription to the BIBLICAL WORLD or the *American Journal of Theology*. The new plan involves no subscription, but calls for a membership fee of one dollar, for which the book list and special reviews are furnished. A complete syllabus for study with each course is to be prepared. The student will also receive upon enrolling a coupon entitling him to a proportionate rebate upon the subscription price of any one of several magazines for the year of his membership.

The following subjects are offered in the Professional Reading Courses: (1) "The Historical and Literary Origin of the Pentateuch," (2) "Old Testament Prophecy," (3) "The Origin and Growth of the Hebrew Psalter," (4) "The Life of Jesus the Christ," (5) "The Apostolic Age," (6) "The Problems Connected with the Gospel of John," (7) "Christianity and Social Problems," (8) "The Preparation of Sermons," (9) "The Teaching of Jesus," (10) "The History of Israel," (11) "The Wisdom Literature," (12) "The Teaching of the Apostles," (13) "The Post-Apostolic Era," (14) "Ten Notable New Books (1901-2)." Two new courses will be added January first.

The further work of the INSTITUTE includes four thorough correspondence courses in Hebrew, three in New Testament Greek, three in the English Old Testament, and six in the English New Testament. Every minister ought to be working in some thorough course as his time permits. A special campaign, with a purpose of reviving interest in the study of Hebrew, will be undertaken this year.

A great obstacle to the progress of the INSTITUTE work lies in the fact that it has no endowment and consequently an insufficient income to enable it to advertise extensively. It is therefore necessary to enlist in the service of promotion the friends of the work. All such who read these pages are urged to equip themselves with printed matter by application to the headquarters of the INSTITUTE (Hyde Park, Chicago, Ill.), and to circulate such matter freely among their friends and others whom they wish to interest in the opportunities offered.